



OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
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**Office of Executive Inspector General Supports Legislation to Increase Transparency and Strengthen Enforcement of State Employees' Ethics Training**

**CHICAGO, IL:** – On October 11, 2011, a pair of bills aimed at increasing transparency and strengthening ethics training compliance were introduced by State Representative Fred Crespo (44<sup>th</sup> District). The two bills have the full support of the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (OEIG).

House Bill 3831 will increase transparency in Illinois State government by giving each Executive Inspector General the discretion to release reports to the public when there is a finding of misconduct against a State official or employee. Currently, the law only mandates that reports be released if an employee is being terminated or suspended for three or more days or if the Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) wishes to release the report. Specifically, House Bill 3831 provides the Executive Inspectors General the additional discretion to release their own reports, when the EEC does not. *"The release of reports in which misconduct is found will not only increase transparency for citizens but will have a much-needed deterrent effect on future misconduct,"* stated Ricardo Meza, Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor. *"Illinois citizens deserve to be informed of misconduct involving State employees and this bill does just that,"* continued OEIG Legislative Assistant Inspector General Jessica Reese. State Senator Susan Garrett (29<sup>th</sup> District) will serve as the chief sponsor of this bill in the Illinois Senate.

Representative Crespo also introduced House Bill 3830, which is aimed at strengthening enforcement of State employees' ethics training obligations. This proposed amendment to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act sets a minimum fine of \$250 for individuals who fail to timely complete mandatory ethics training, as required by State law. This bill garnered praise from OEIG Director of Ethics Training and Compliance David Keahl, who said that considerable time and effort is spent to ensure that State employees, officials, and appointees complete ethics training in a timely manner. *"State employees and appointees who complete ethics training in a timely manner are better informed of their ethical obligations, including newly adopted laws or rules,"* stated Mr. Keahl. As with House Bill 3831, Senator Garrett will also serve as chief Senate sponsor of this bill.

Individuals are encouraged to report fraud, waste, and abuse involving State agencies, and may contact the OEIG at (866) 814-1113. The OEIG's online complaint form can be found at <http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov>.

*Created in 2003, the mission of the OEIG is to ensure accountability in State government by functioning as an independent, non-partisan State agency with responsibility, pursuant to State law, to investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct in relation to entities within its jurisdiction, including: more than 350 executive branch State agencies, boards, and commissions; nine State public universities; and the Chicago-area transit boards. In addition, the OEIG, in conjunction with the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission and in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, provides oversight to ethics training for the approximately 175,000 employees, appointees, and officials under OEIG jurisdiction.*